

# AVERY

SPRING/SUMMER 2015

AVERY INSTITUTE

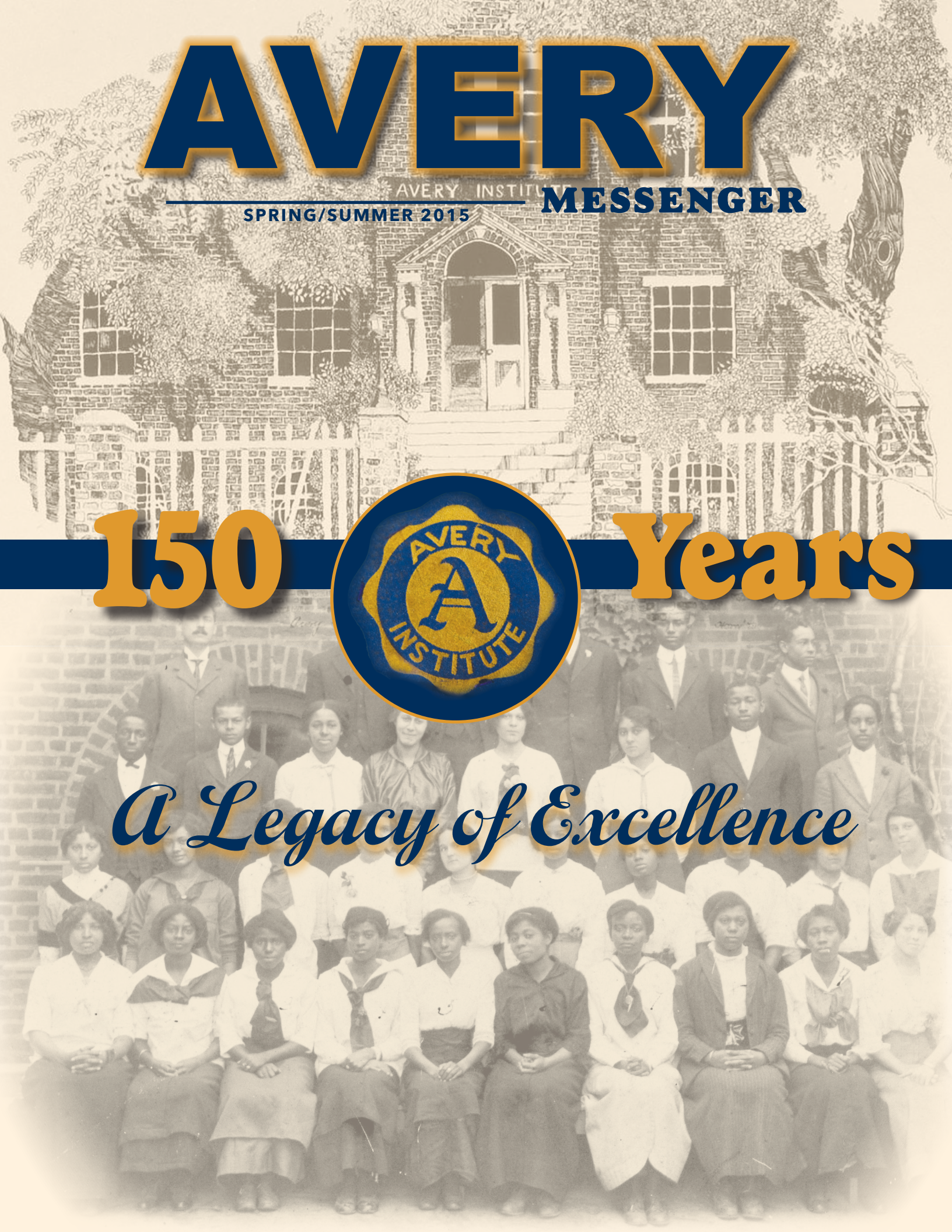
MESSENGER

150



Years

*A Legacy of Excellence*







A Publication of the

**AVERY RESEARCH CENTER**

FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE

College of Charleston  
125 Bull Street • Charleston, SC 29424  
Ph: 843.953.7609 • Fax: 843.953.7607  
Archives: 843.953.7608  
avery.cofc.edu

**AVERY INSTITUTE**

OF AFRO-AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE

P.O. Box 21492 • Charleston, SC 29413  
Ph: 843.953.7609 • Fax: 843.953.7607  
www.averyinstitute.us

**STAFF**

Patricia Williams Lessane, Executive Director  
Mary Battle, Public Historian  
Curtis J. Franks, Curator; Coordinator of Public  
Programs and Facilities Manager  
Savannah Frierson, Administrative Assistant  
Georgette Mayo, Processing Archivist  
Aaron Spelbring, Manager of Archival Services  
Deborah Wright, Associate Director

Daron Calhoun, Graduate Assistant/Special Projects  
Kelly Hogan, Graduate Assistant

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Deborah Wright, Editor, Layout, Design  
Savannah Frierson, Copy Editor  
Avery Research Center Staff, Contributors  
Printed by Nelson Printing

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**MESSAGE FROM  
Brian McGee, PhD**

Interim Provost and Executive Vice President  
for Academic Affairs

The history of the Avery Normal Institute is the history of Charleston.

There is no way to explain Charleston without exploring the African-American culture and community that defined, built, and inspired so much of what makes our city distinctive. And the story of our African-American community cannot be told without telling the story of the Avery Normal Institute.

For generations, the graduates of the Avery transformed our civic and educational landscape. They led; they encouraged; they inspired; they demanded. To be an Avery graduate was to be a leader. To be an Avery graduate was to be a transformational force for good.

This year, we are experiencing many significant milestones, including the 150th anniversary of the Avery Institute and the 30th anniversary of the Avery Research Center, which coincides with Avery’s formal association with the College of Charleston. Avery has long been a part of the fabric of Charleston, and it is now a permanent and vibrant fixture in the beautiful community that is the College of Charleston.

Today, we look to the Avery Research Center to make certain the College of Charleston becomes all that it should be, and to ensure our city has the informed citizens it needs and deserves.

The future the College has charted—of enhanced student access, of cutting-edge research, and of a more inclusive city and state—cannot be accomplished without the resources and the creative energy made available at the Avery Research Center. The future to which Charleston aspires cannot happen without the enthusiastic and full participation in public life that the name Avery has always inspired in its students.

My thanks to the visionaries who continue to make and remake the Avery Research Center as a space for the preservation of history, engagement with the challenges of today, and fount of great aspirations for our future.

**ON THE COVER:** Rendering of the Avery Institute building circa 1940 was done by Averyite Louis Hearn (Avery, 1947) and photograph of the Avery Institute Class of 1915 with Principal Benjamin Cox (top row left). The Avery Institute patch is from the Sports Memorabilia board (on display in the 19th Century Classroom) was donated by Carl Greene (Avery, 1955).



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**AVERY RESEARCH CENTER  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

PATRICIA WILLIAMS LESSANE, PHD

Dear Friends,

This year marks two major milestones here at the Avery Research Center. First, the Avery Research Center turns thirty years old! 2015 also marks the sesquicentennial anniversary of the Avery Normal Institute, from which the Avery Research Center gets its name. In reflecting upon the significance of these momentous events, I am reminded of the adage of “lifting as we climb.” Indeed, the work of the founders and initial leaders of Avery—Francis and Thomas Cordozo, E. P Smith, and later Principal Benjamin Cox—exemplifies the early seeds of the Black scholastic tradition. The Cardozos’ pioneering efforts to provide Black Charlestonians with a classical education demonstrates their forward thinking and radical approach to Black agency and self-determination in the nineteenth century. In similar fashion, Benjamin and Jeanette Cox ushered in a new era of education at Avery for a new people—twentieth-century African Americans, for whom the Second Industrial Revolution beckoned.

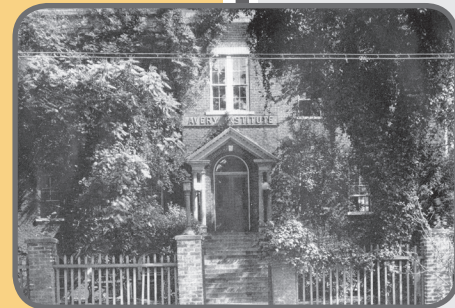
We stand on the shoulders of such great people, such innovative thinkers. The founders and inaugural leadership of the Avery Research Center are equally commendable—The Honorable Lucille Whipper, Gene Hunt, Dr. Myrtle Glascoe, and others looked to the future and saw a place for our collective Black history in it. Their visionary work laid the foundation for what we do at the Avery Research Center every day.

But this year is not only about Avery milestones. The Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History (ASALH) turns one hundred years old this year. Founded by the luminous scholar and race worker, Dr. Carter G. Woodson, ASALH continues to foster dialogue and scholarship around African-American history and culture through its conferences and publications. We salute ASALH!

Additionally, St. Mark’s Episcopal Church also celebrated its sesquicentennial anniversary with a day of programs and musical presentations in March 2015. Their theme, and the symbol for our own yearlong slate of commemorative programs, was Sankofa, which points to the importance of knowing one’s past in order to move forward. As we remember the legacy of the Avery Normal Institute and the continued work of the Avery Research Center, we should do so with a sense of great accomplishments, pride, and hope for the future!

Yours, for the continued Uplift of Our People,

pwl



**AVERY INSTITUTE  
PRESIDENT’S REPORT**  
CATHERINE BOAGS

Hello Everyone,

This is our year of celebration, our sesquicentennial year! Avery Normal Institute was founded 150 years ago in September 1865. Avery was the first accredited secondary school for African Americans in Charleston, South Carolina. Since then, the Avery institution has gone through many changes and challenges, including the closure of the school and the emergence of the Avery Research Center along with the related entities of support that exist today.

Many people have worked to preserve the Avery building as a place where the history of African Americans in the Lowcountry will be archived. I would like to recognize just a few of them at this time.

- The Honorable Lucille S. Whipper for her tireless work in having the Avery building reopened as a research center and historical museum. She was the first president of the Avery Institute Board.
- Community leaders who worked to acquire funding and political support to renovate the building. Those leaders would include the Honorable Herbert Fielding, McKinley Washington, and past President of the College of Charleston, Alex Sanders.

- African-American organizations—churches, civic clubs, and fraternities that took up the cause to have the building reopened.

- All of the Avery Research Center Directors (past and present) for their work in sustaining the viability of the Avery Research Center.

- Dr. Edmund L. Drago for his documentation of the history of Avery in his book, *Charleston’s Avery Center*, which will be available for future scholars and others seeking knowledge concerning Charleston’s African-American history.

- And most importantly, the Avery Institute membership for your continued support of the vision to preserve the history of African Americans in this community.

This issue of the *Avery Messenger* will be dedicated to the history of Avery Normal Institute in recognition of sesquicentennial anniversary.

Our annual meeting will be held on Saturday, June 13, 2015 at 2:00pm. This meeting will also commemorate the anniversary.

We have additional celebrations planned for the month of September, including a reception on Thursday, September 10, 2015.

I hope that you will take an active part in celebrating with us on this most joyous occasion.



# AVERY ARCHIVES NEWS

FINDING AIDS FOR THE FOLLOWING COLLECTIONS  
ARE NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE:  
[http://avery.cofc.edu/archives/collection\\_list.php](http://avery.cofc.edu/archives/collection_list.php)

## FRANK YOUNG PAPERS, 1910–1989 (AMN 1136)

Frank Albert Young (1905–1990) worked as a journalist, historian, lecturer, and activist. Young, frequently referred to as “Mzee” (respected wise elder, Swahili) and “Mwalimu” (dedicated teacher, Swahili) was one of the last living members of “The Harlem Round Table”. He was the founding member of the Third World Press News Service, Third World-American Education Association, and Pan-African Communications Committee. He was also a member of numerous social justice and grassroots organizations.

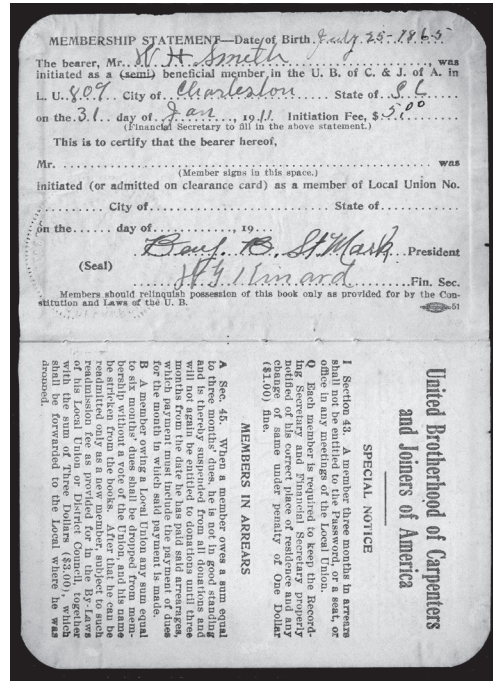
The majority of this collection includes correspondence (both business and personal), as well as newsletters, pamphlets, magazine and newspaper clippings from social justice, civil rights, grassroots, and political organizations, some which Young founded or cofounded. Several organizations document Young’s involvement as a journalist/media representative. The collection also includes documents used in Young’s instruction to youth, with research materials on African and African-American histories, with periodicals and newsletters on the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa; and documents pertaining to Young’s Native-American heritage (the Lenni Lenape tribe). Young also conducted extensive research on a variety of topics, including the Underground Railroad in Pennsylvania and the Ku Klux Klan. The remainder of the collection holds brief photographs of Young, his various notes on businesses he contacted, and newsletters and periodicals, mostly from African-American grassroots organizations.

## CLEMON HAROLD RICHARDSON 1910–2001 (AMN 1141)

Clemon Harold Richardson, Sr. (1925–2003) was a Masonic and community leader in Charleston, South Carolina. He was the Grand High Priest of the Robert B. Elliott Chapter #1 for the Holy Royal Arch Masons of the State of South Carolina. Locally, Richardson was the president of the Maryville/Asheville Neighborhood Association (formerly the West Ashley Civic Association) from 1954–2000. Richardson also served as the Charleston County Democratic Party Executive Committee Person for the St. Andrews Precinct #3. The collection includes material related to Richardson’s involvement as a Masonic, civic, and political organizer in the Charleston, South Carolina community. The majority of documents consist of meeting minutes and agendas; correspondence, reports, conference and session proceedings; certificates and testimonials; and newspaper clippings associated with the Holy Royal Arch Masons, Grand Chapter, South Carolina; the Maryville/Ashleyville Neighborhood Association (with its related history of the Town of Maryville); the City of Charleston; the South Democratic Party (Charleston County); and legislators, James Clyburn, Floyd Breeland, and Robert Ford. A smaller section of the collection contains various photocopied newspaper articles.

## SMITH-ATKINS FAMILY PAPERS, 1877–1981 (AMN 1142)

The Smith-Atkins family members included in this collection are William Henry Smith (1865–1941); his wife Anna Priscilla McLeish Smith (1870–1940); her father, James Wilkinson McLeish (1839–1897); and William and Anna’s daughter, Maude Henrietta Smith-Atkins (1839–1897). The bulk of the collection is materials created or collected by



Membership Statement from the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America Membership Booklet. Smith-Atkins Family Papers (Box1, Folder 2)

Maude Smith-Atkins as an Avery Normal Institute student and as an organizer. Smith-Atkins co-authored “The Avery Song”, and the Library of Congress copyright certificate (1925) is included in this collection. Items of note are the union dues booklets of William Smith’s affiliation with the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, Local 809, Charleston, South Carolina (1910–1934). Materials from James W. McLeish hold a minute and financial ledger (1877–1880) from Wesley Methodist Episcopal Church

(Charleston, South Carolina) and a certificate of membership for burial privileges from Unity and Friendship Society (1894). Throughout the collection are materials relating to Centenary Methodist Episcopal Church (Charleston, South Carolina), of which Anna and Maude Smith- Atkins were members.

## LISSA D’AQUISTO FELZER COLLECTION, 2006 (AMN 1140)

Lissa D’Aquistio Felzer is a former Senior Preservation Planner for the City of Charleston and adjunct professor with the College of Charleston. The collection contains final reports from Professor Felzer’s course, “Researching Historic Properties” (ARTH-290) taught at the College of Charleston in 2006. Students were assigned to write detailed property histories of houses identified as “Freedman’s cottages”. The property histories are derived from a variety of documents: deeds and indices; Charleston County and City ward books (tax records), and probate records; City Directories (Charleston, South Carolina); the Freedman’s Bank Records; historical maps, plats, census records and photographs. The collection is organized by the geographical sections of Charleston, South Carolina: the Low Peninsula, the West Side, the East Side, and the Upper Peninsula.

## ESTHER KAPLAN PIVNICK COLLECTION, 1815–2000 (AMN 1138)

Esther Kaplan Pivnick (1913–2001) is a former patternmaker from New York who retired on Johns Island, South Carolina in the mid-1970s. Pivnick met local historian Elizabeth “Betty” Stringfellow through mutual community educational programs on the island. The women embarked on an ambitious project to write an inclusive history of Johns Island, which is the largest barrier island in South Carolina, along with other South Carolina barrier islands, or Sea Islands. Their goal was to write a “people’s history” of white and African-American island residents, stressing the rich, cultural heritage of the Sea Islands and highlighting Stringfellow’s ancestors in particular, the Andells. While the joint effort was never completed, Stringfellow eventually authored *A Place Called St. John’s* with historian Laylon Wayne Jordan, which was published in 1998.

The majority of the collection contains photocopied documents, notes and interview transcripts created and/or collected in the research of the unfinished collaboration, typescripts, handwritten and typed notes, photocopies of letters, legal documents, book excerpts and journal essays, newspaper and magazine articles, oral history transcripts, genealogical charts, and maps spanning the Native-American origins of the island to the twentieth century. Included are documents relating to Civil War battles on Johns Island; family histories of both plantation owners and African Americans; education on the Island after the Civil War, including the work of the Freedmen’s Bureau and their teachers; and cassette audio recordings of Pivnick and Stringfellow lectures and discussions on Johns Island history.

## LUCILLE ROPER EDWARDS PAPERS, 1942–1989 (AMN 1143)

Lucille Roper Edwards (1924–) is an elementary schoolteacher who taught second graders in the Miami, Florida area for forty-seven years. Originally from Cordesville, South Carolina, Roper Edwards attended the Berkeley Training School (Moncks Corner, 1938), and the Avery Normal Institute (1940–1942). The majority of the collection holds Roper Edwards’s lesson plans written when she was a second grade teacher at Poinciana Park Elementary School in Miami, Florida from 1965–1989. A smaller section contains brief and various documents and manuscripts created and collected by Roper Edwards relating to her life and family. Also included is her Masters of Education thesis, “A Proposed Plan for Teaching Science in the Primary Grades of Buist Public School, Charleston, South Carolina” (1947).

## VIVIENNE EDWARDS ANDERSON PAPERS, 1920–2002 (AMN 1144)

Vivienne Edwards Anderson (1914–2006) was an Avery Institute Class of 1933 graduate and one of the initial members of the Avery Institute of Afro-American History and Culture (AIAAH&C), which was established for the creation of the Avery Research Center for African American History and Culture at the College of Charleston. The collection contains brief documents relating to Edwards Anderson’s life and genealogical information of her immediate family members. The majority of the collection contains administrative documents (minutes, letters, memorandums, mailing lists, event programs) related to the AIAAH&C Executive Committee from 1979–1994.

## DR. LEROY FREDERICK ANDERSON PAPERS, 1942–1990 (AMN 1145)

Leroy Frederick Anderson (1916–1989), was an educator, behavioral scientist, and medical administrator. Born in Charleston, South Carolina, Anderson was a 1935 graduate of Avery Institute, as well as a graduate of Fisk University and the University of Kentucky, where he acquired a Doctor of Education degree. During his illustrious career, Anderson was supervising principal at W. Gresham Meggett School (James Island, South Carolina); executive director of Franklin C. Fetter Health, Incorporated (Charleston, South Carolina); clinical associate professor of psychology at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC); and consultant to the Training and Education Branch of the United States Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW), as well as its various divisions pertaining to education, mental health and drug abuse. The collection contains biographical documents, correspondence, reports and training manuals written by Anderson; meeting minutes; brief photographs; and collected materials relating to Anderson’s personal life and professional career. The bulk of this collection are documents (correspondence, reports, training manuals, newsletters, and travel expense reports) from Anderson’s involvement as a consultant to the Office of Education and the Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and Mental Health Administration (ADAMHA), and its branches from 1973 to 1975.

Reported by Georgette Mayo, Processing Archivist

## RECENT ACQUISITIONS

### CAROL BERGIN—CHARLESTON, SC

Two Ugandan woven baskets; one large batik fabric in blue and white; slide set with negatives and photographs of Nigerian Batik making, African clothing and textiles, and “Uganda Fruits of the Nile”; slides from Somalia, Uganda, and Nigeria crafts; sixteen batik technique sample swatches; photographs from Kenya, Cameroon, Nigeria, Somalia, and “Solidarity Through Fair Trade”, South Africa.

### MIRIAM DECOSTA-WILLIS—MEMPHIS, TN

Family photographs (circa 1800–2010), genealogical documents; book, *(Travel in Egypt and Scenes of Jerusalem)*; photocopied floor plans of Avery Institute (circa 1927); and family-related newspaper/magazine articles.

### PEGGY CLEMENT—BEND, OR

An Egyptian painting on papyrus strips; two posters (Piccolo Spoleto, 1982; MOJA Arts Festival, 1989) pastel drawing of young African-American male; partial newspaper pages from *The New York Times*, April 19, 1861 and *New-York Daily Tribune*, July 22, 1861.

### JAMES G. SPADY—PHILADELPHIA, PA

Four books: *Marcus Garvey: Jazz, Reggae, Hip Hop and the African Diaspora*; *New Perspectives on the History of Marcus Garvey, the U.N.I.A., and the African Diaspora*; *360 Degreez of Sonia Sanchez*; and *Tha Global Cipa: Hip Hop Culture and Consciousness*.

## FROM THE ARCHIVES



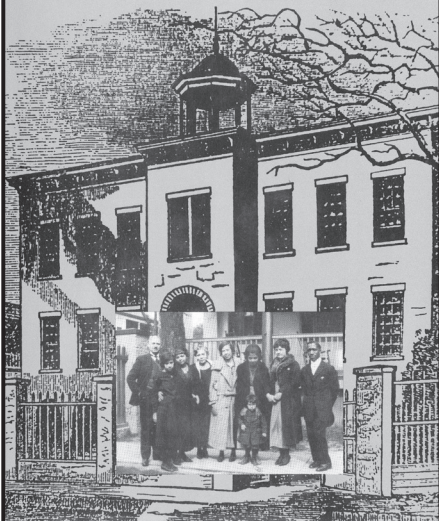
Circa 1938 photograph of Cynthia “Cinny” McCottry (Class, 1940) in her Avery Institute cheerleader uniform. The Cynthia McCottry-Smith Papers are housed at the Avery Research Center.



## THE AVERY STORY

**INITIATIVE, PATERNALISM, AND RACE RELATIONS: CHARLESTON'S AVERY NORMAL INSTITUTE** by Edmund Lee Drago (University of Georgia Press, 1990), is the go-to resource on the history of the Avery Normal Institute. Established by the American Missionary Association in 1865, the school was one of the foremost Black secondary schools in the South for nearly a century, educating and developing Black leaders, and training the majority of Black teachers serving Charleston and the South Carolina Lowcountry.

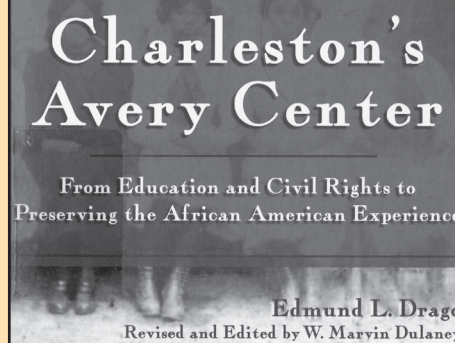
**Initiative, Paternalism, and Race Relations** Charleston's Avery Normal Institute Edmund L. Drago



Relying on a wealth of sources, including oral histories and private papers, Dr. Drago produced more than a simple history of the institution. The Avery story is placed within a broad social and historical context addressing themes such as Black initiative, Yankee paternalism and race relations, as well as caste and color distinctions within the Black community.

In 2006, Dr. Drago (with the Avery Research Center), released an update of *Charleston's Avery Normal Institute* re-titled *Charleston's Avery Center: From Education and Civil Rights to Preserving the African American Experience* (The History Press), revised and edited by Avery Research Center's then-director W. Marvin Dulaney, PhD. *Charleston's Avery Center* includes the added chapter, "Saving Avery: A Dream Realized", that details the founding of the Avery Institute of Afro-American History and Culture; the strategy to secure the Bull Street site; and the establishment of an African-American museum, cultural center, and repository.

Both books may be accessed in the Avery Research Center archives.



## Frank Augustus DeCosta: The Averyite Principal

by Miriam DeCosta Willis, PhD

In 1936, at the age of twenty-six, Frank A. DeCosta was the first graduate of Avery Normal Institute to return as principal. He had been valedictorian of the Class of 1927 and had taught at Avery for two years after graduating from Lincoln University. Before returning to his alma mater as principal, he had also completed a year of graduate school, headed Burrell Normal Institute, married Beautine Hubert, and had two children.



Described as "a native Charlestonian, with a breadth of knowledge and a commanding presence," the new principal was progressive and innovative while continuing Avery's historic tradition as a college preparatory and teacher-training institution. He hired faculty with graduate degrees; strengthened the academic curriculum; promoted physical fitness for all students; provided opportunities for community service; encouraged new student organizations, such as the Hi-Y and Criterion Clubs; and introduced the Avery Cooperative Society, a student-directed cooperative program.

DeCosta faced daunting fiscal problems during his first year as principal as well. To offset the difficulties caused by the Great Depression, DeCosta established a tuition payment plan, solicited increased support from parents and alumni, and initiated fundraising activities with the help of his wife Beautine, who was also the school matron. These efforts resulted in a record enrollment of 460 students in his inaugural year.

Significantly, he also resisted pressure from the American Missionary Association to convert Avery into a public institution. Although he left the school to pursue a doctorate in 1941, he wrote that returning to his alma mater was "one of the most pleasant experiences of my life."

Miriam DeCosta Willis, PhD is the daughter of Frank and Beautine DeCosta. She is a retired educator and currently full-time author. Her publications include, *Erotique Noire/Black Erotica* (1992) and *Daughters of the Diaspora: Afro-Hispanic Writers* (2003). Dr. DeCosta Willis's most recent publication, *Sojourn in Kaduna: The Life and Letters of Frank A. DeCosta* is an account of her father's tenure with the United States Agency for International Development in Kaduna, Nigeria. The Frank A. DeCosta Papers are housed at the Avery Research Center.

## AGENCY, ACTIVISM, & ADVOCACY Pillars of the Black Intellectual Tradition—Part 2

by Curtis J. Franks

*The Avery Research Center's displays and exhibitions convey a strong thematic thrust and spatial efficiency that are informed by one of the central themes of the African-American experience: Agency, Activism, and Advocacy. This thematic thrust permeates and resonates throughout the building, showcasing how vitally important it is to the clear understanding of the local landscape (both historically and culturally speaking) and the continuing relevance of the lived experiences of African-descended people.*

PART TWO CONTINUES WITH A LOOK AT THE SECOND AND THIRD FLOOR OF THE AVERY RESEARCH CENTER.

Unlike Avery Research Center's ground floor, the second and third floors are much more spacious and the ceilings are quite high, as one is accustomed to seeing in Charleston historic properties such as this one.

The second floor includes Avery Research Center's archival repository (over 6,000 book and manuscript collections, and material culture); the Changing Gallery, which features temporary exhibits produced and developed by the Avery Research Center from existing collections. Currently featured in the Changing Gallery is "Malcolm X: 50 Years and Counting—The Legacy Continues", an exhibit featuring materials from the James E. Campbell Collection (Avery Research Center) and from the private collection of Imam Hakim Abdul-Ali. There are also several hallway displays (Denmark Vesey; Freedom Summer; Philip Simmons; Gullah and Slavery). The Avery Room, which houses the permanent Avery Normal Institute exhibit, "The Spirit That Would Not Die", is a recreated nineteenth-century social studies classroom serving as a memorial to the Avery Normal Institute in observance of the enormous impact the school had on the education and the development of Black leadership in Charleston, the state of South Carolina, and the nation.

Ascending the Avery Research Center's grand staircase that connect the second and third level, we make our way to the third floor where the McKinley Washington Auditorium and Cox Gallery are located. The Benjamin F. Cox and Jeanette K. Cox Exhibition Gallery is named in honor of Avery Normal Institute principal Benjamin Cox and his wife, Jeannette, the founder of the Phillis Wheatley Literary and Social Club. Benjamin Cox served as principal from 1915 to 1936. This space was made possible by a donation from their son and philanthropist, Dr. Wendell Cox. Currently on view in the Cox Gallery is the revisited and revised "Sweetgrass: A Living Legacy of Family and Community". Originally curated by the Avery Research Center staff in 2009, this exhibition features baskets made by various African and African-American artists in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Items featured in the current exhibition include a new collection of baskets donated by the Mid-America Arts Alliance that were featured in the ExhibitsUSA and NEH on the Road traveling exhibition, "Grass Roots: African Origins of an American Art"; baskets made by children from the Lowcountry for the Avery Research Center's The Next Generation sweetgrass basket making project in 2008; and various sweetgrass baskets from the Avery Research Center archival collections.

The McKinley Washington Auditorium is named after South Carolina State Senator McKinley Washington, a former

legislator from Edisto Island, who led the campaign in the state legislature to fund the final phase of renovations for the Avery Research Center building. This area also served as the auditorium while the Avery Institute was in existence. Today, the room is an exhibition hall as well as a space for

public lectures and symposiums.

In 2015, we revisit a number of important historical events.

To begin, it is the sesquicentennial of the start of Reconstruction as well as the establishment of the Avery Normal Institute. This year also marks one hundred years of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), thirty years of the Avery Research Center, and the first anniversary of the Denmark Vesey monument installation in Charleston's Hampton Park. It is imperative that history of African Americans is descriptive and speaks to the centrality of African-descended peoples to the legacy and culture of the region and throughout the world. Activism, agency, and advocacy must continue to be the central theme in combating and confronting the continuous and ongoing efforts to deny people of African descent their basic civil and human rights.

Continue to look inside out and be transformed by a genuine sense of agency, activism, and advocacy—hallmarks of the African experience in the Americas and other parts of the globe.



Top: Principal Benjamin Cox addressing weekly chapel meeting (circa 1916) in the Avery Institute's auditorium, now the McKinley Washington Auditorium.

Bottom: Current view of the McKinley Washington Auditorium







The Honorable Mrs. Lucille Simmons Whipper, born in Charleston, South Carolina and raised in the Ansonborough neighborhood on Charleston's East Side, was the primary mover, shaker, and master strategist in the "Save Avery" campaign. Mrs. Whipper's history with Avery dates back to her transferring to Avery Institute from Burke School in the ninth grade and graduating at age of sixteen in 1944.

*At last, we have turned indignation into action...*

In 1954, the year Avery closed, many believed that a great injustice had been done to the Black community. Considering the long years of the Institute's history, founded in 1865, and the contributions of its graduates to the local, state, and national community, the audacity of the authorities was incomprehensible. But closed it did!

Each year since that date, whenever the opportunity was present, Avery Alumni would continue to gripe and cry "shame" among themselves. Some attempts were made to form an organization of some sort to preserve the history and philosophy of this great institution, but the efforts were not sustained. Meanwhile, the decision to move the downtown campus of the Palmer Technical College, which is presently housed on the Avery site, started anew the fear among Avery alumni that all will be lost. What will happen to Avery (the site)? Condominiums? Destruction of the buildings? Another school?

At this point, someone entered my life. Almost weekly she cried, "Shame!" What do you think will happen to the buildings now? Charleston Black[s] have such a rich heritage. Wouldn't it be wonderful if they could acquire that site, restore it to its original state, and use it as an archives [sic] to recover and preserve the Black experience in the low country?"

It sounded like a great idea to me. Then she said, "Maybe you can get something started." I looked aghast and said to myself, "Who, me? I would be fool to get into another activity." That nagging voice was that of Dr. Margaretta Childs, former archivist at the College of Charleston, and now historian for the City of Charleston.

Of course, the more publicity given to the construction of the new Palmer campus, the more my conscience was pricked by the thought of Avery going the way of other Black institutions, i.e. the McClellan-Banks Hos-

pital and Training School. I finally proposed that the Charleston, South Carolina Chapter of LINKS, INC. support the effort to organize community support for obtaining the Avery site and restoring it to a use similar to its original purpose. A group of interested citizens and alumni, after a series of meetings held at Plymouth United Church of Christ (Congregational), organized the Avery Institute of Afro-American History and Culture.

Speech delivered by Mrs. Lucille Whipper (date unknown). From the Lucille Whipper Papers, Avery Research Center, College of Charleston.

The Avery Institute of Afro-American History and Culture (AIAAHC) was incorporated July 7, 1980. The first president was Lucille Whipper and the first vice-president was Herbert DeCosta. On June 30, 1981 Whipper retired as director of Human Relations at the College of Charleston in order to work full time on the project, going on to become the first and third president of the AIAAHC.



Dr. Margaretta Childs



Below are excerpts from an interview of Mrs. Whipper conducted by Deborah Wright and Daron Calhoun on March 26, 2015. The entire interview will be available to the public via the Avery Research Center's Oral History Collection.

#### WHAT HAS BEEN THE IMPACT OF THE AVERY INSTITUTE (1865–1954) ON THE CHARLESTON COMMUNITY?

A great impact, because so many graduates and persons who have made a name for themselves [came out of Avery]; and during the early struggle, [of] civil rights, [Avery] had visitors like DuBois. [Avery] was...a rich environment beyond the books. Also, early on when I was here we had a course in Black History.

#### IMPRESSION OF BEING TAUGHT BLACK HISTORY

Well as a child, I received information that I had not had before. Of course, I guess, the influence of having studied it empowered you [sic] as an individual.

#### WHAT IS THE LEGACY OF THE AVERY INSTITUTE?

Empowering Black people; I think that's a legacy, the contribution of [Avery] graduates to position of leadership. All over the country you may find some Avery graduates.

#### THOUGHTS ABOUT THE AVERY RESEARCH CENTER

Basically, I am so pleased that it [Avery Research Center] has survived. That it is functioning. That it has had an impact on the community and it's always good to see over the years that something has survived and it's making a meaningful contribution. Additionally, my thought is always to serve this present age.

#### MRS. WHIPPER POSED THE FOLLOWING QUESTION TO THE AVERY RESEARCH CENTER

What needs have you identified as where you need to go? Knowing and having the experience, I'd like to know more about where you think you ought to move from this place...You have to remain relevant. "

Dr. Patricia Williams Lessane, Avery Research Center's Executive Director, responds:

There are several needs. The most pressing one is to resolve infrastructure issues within the Avery Research Center building. I am happy to report that renovations for improvement are now on the campus schedule. The other issue is the premium of space at the Avery Research Center. We are bursting at the seams with manuscript collections, artifacts, and other material culture, and we need best-practice solutions to address this issue in an efficient, sustainable, twenty-first century way.

We do need to grow the collections, particularly to fill in gaps in certain areas, and we need to be able to process and digitize them so more people have access to the our holdings. Our partnership with the Lowcountry Digital History Initiative (LDHI) and the Lowcountry Digital Library (LCDL) has been very productive, and some of the more popular or widely used collections have been digitized, making them more available to a larger audience. The Avery Research Center is evolving and growing; and as such, we need more staff, especially staff who have archival industry acumen and a strong background in African-American history and culture.

Finally, I think we need to expand the work and reach of the museum component. One way to achieve this is by reabsorbing the adjacent property—the original Avery Institute teachers' quarters—into a historic home that tells the story of Principal Benjamin Cox, his wife Jeannette Cox, and those of the other principals and the Avery Institute teachers. The property can be outfitted with period furniture and artifacts from the collections, and feature interpreters and docents giving guided tours of the facility as part of the Avery Research Center tour. Acquiring that building as part of our complex would also be tremendous in solving our need for additional space.



Early image of the Avery Institute teacher quarters at 123 Bull Street. (date unknown)



## THE PHILLIS WHEATLEY LITERARY AND SOCIAL CLUB

### One Hundred Years of Blessings: 1916–2016

by Emily L. Moore, EdD

*"Fools rush in where angels  
fear to tread."*

**W**ith these opening words in her 1935 history of the Phillis Wheatley Literary and Social Club (PWLSC), founder Jeannette Keeble Cox proclaims the challenges of beginning a Colored women's literary and social club in an era of legalized and normalized racism and sexism in the heart of the Deep South.

Named after Phillis Wheatley (1753–1784), an enslaved woman who was the first person of African descent to publish a book of poetry in the United States, the organization is the oldest African-American women's club in the city of Charleston.

"The Phillis Wheatleys", as they referred to themselves in the early days, were an organization of educated and professional women with a primary goal of culture and self-improvement. Begun only fifty years after Emancipation (1863) and four years before the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment for women's suffrage, their charter membership of nineteen women believed as Cox wrote: "That mighty leader—Negro teachers in the city schools—was still the substance of things hoped for, and some...thought this might be a splendid little way of beginning that united, homogeneous Negro society which we might look forward to others completing long after we had passed from the stage of action."

Over the years, the organization has continued to present international and nationally known African Americans to the Charleston community for educational, political, social, and current events. Cynthia McCottry-Smith, former president, has been active in the organization sixty-six years. She says of the efforts of the membership, "We want to remain on the path of our original mission while staying relevant to the needs of the twenty-first century."

Throughout 2016, the Phillis Wheatley Literary and Social Club will hold a multifaceted celebration marking a century of continuous educational, charitable, and intellectual pursuits. Current president Norma Hoffman Davis, daughter of former member Ellen Wiley Hoffman and great granddaughter-in-law of founder Jeannette Cox, leads the organization's yearlong celebration. Harriet Cochran serves as chair of the Centennial Committee.



Jeannette Keeble Cox founded the PWLSC at Avery Institute and was the group's first historian

In the words of founder Jeannette Cox in referencing the organizational history, "It has created reciprocity of effort and so, all in all, we feel ours is no small heritage... We have been busy; we have had our successes and failures...but the thread of our club life has never been broken."

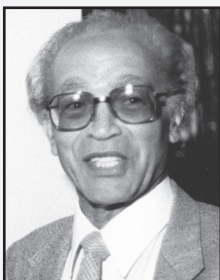
Emily L. Moore, EdD is the Historian of the Phillis Wheatley Literary and Social Club.

## Honoring Two Sustainers of the Avery Institute Family

### Lois Averetta Simms (1910s–2015) and Eugene Clayton Hunt (1917–1994)



On April 18, 2015, we lost one of our dear Avery Research Center friends, Miss Lois Averetta Simms. Miss Simms was the valedictorian of Avery Normal Institute Class of 1937. She went on to graduate from Johnson C. Smith University and earned her MA from Howard University in 1954. She taught in Charleston-area schools and was four times published. Miss Simms was a dedicated early member of the Avery Institute of Afro-American History and Culture (AIAAHC) board, and also served as Editor of *The Bulletin*, the AIAAHC's newletter. She generously gave of her time to the Avery Research Center, serving in many capacities as a volunteer and, until her illness in 2013, was a frequent, wonderful, and welcome visitor. The Lois A. Simms Papers are housed at the Avery Research Center.



Educator Eugene "Gene" Hunt (Avery, Class 1935) was a graduate of Avery Institute who taught English and Speech at Burke High School from 1941 to 1972. In 1972, Hunt became assistant professor of English and Speech at the College of Charleston. When the AIAAHC was formed, Eugene Hunt was an ardent supporter, becoming its second president after Lucille Whipper. Eugene Hunt's most notable contribution to the early growth of the Avery Research Center was establishing the foundation upon which the Avery Research Center would begin building its collections. So many of the older Charlestonians knew and trusted Hunt, and he convinced them to consider donating their collections to the newly formed AIAAHC. Hunt also worked with Dr. Edmund Lee Drago and others to organize the exhibits "Black Charleston in Slavery and Freedom" and "Avery: The Spirit That Would Not Die". The Eugene C. Hunt Papers are housed at the Avery Research Center.



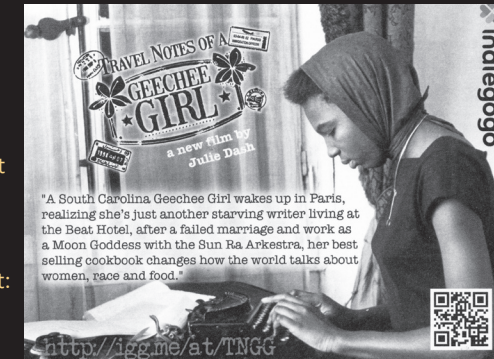
In early March, Julie Dash traveled to New York City to continue work on *Travel Notes of a Geechee Girl (TNGG)* documentary, which chronicles the life, work, and social network of culinary chef and African-American griot Vertamae Grosvenor. Shot in Harlem, the bastion of Black culture and history, this recent installation of *TNGG* includes onscreen interviews with journalist Sue Goodwin, musician Sam Waymon (brother of the late Nina Simone), and screen acting giant Danny Glover.

## TRAVEL NOTES OF A GEECHEE GIRL

by Patricia Williams Lessane, PhD

Traveling alongside Dash for this cinematic adventure were Avery Research Center's very own Savannah Frierson, Daron Calhoun, and Dr. Patricia Williams Lessane. Team *TNGG* was joined in Harlem by filmmakers Juanita Anderson (Wayne State University) and Rachel Watanabe-Batton (Producers Guild of America), who worked with Dash on the vision and plans for the film's production. Line producer Bernard Gourley made sure the shoot ran smoothly each day.

The onscreen interviews were shot at one of Harlem's newest hot spots—MIST Harlem, the South African restaurant and cultural salon. While there, *TNGG* launched the Indiegogo crowdfunding campaign to secure additional funds for the film. You can see a trailer of the film at: [travelnotesofageecheegirl.com](http://travelnotesofageecheegirl.com).



## Avery Research Center's Upcoming Highlights

Visit: <http://avery.cofc.edu> for full a listing of events and programs & LIKE us on Facebook.

Exhibit Opening: "This Far by Faith: Carolina Camp Meetings—An African-American Tradition". Avery Research Center, August 27, 2015–December 20, 2015

Avery Research Center's Brown Bag Series begins on Thursday, September 3, 2015 with former Avery Research Center student intern Muhammad Abdur Rahim

"In Celebration of Black Midwives—Films and Panel Presentation". Saturday, October 10, 2015, 10:00am–3:00pm, McKinley Washington Auditorium

Avery Research Center Commemoration Program and Exhibition Opening with Dr. Bernard Powers and the Hon. Lucille Whipper. Saturday, October 31, 2015, 3:00pm–5:00pm, McKinley Washington Auditorium and 19th-Century Classroom

Association for the Study of Worldwide African Diaspora (ASWAD) Eighth Biennial Conference in North Charleston, SC, November 4–7, 2015. Theme: "African Diaspora Circularities: Forging Communities, Cultures, and Politics". For more information, visit: <http://www.aswadiaspora.org>.

## FEATURING

## DEAN ANTONIO TILLIS, PhD



by Patricia Williams Lessane, PhD

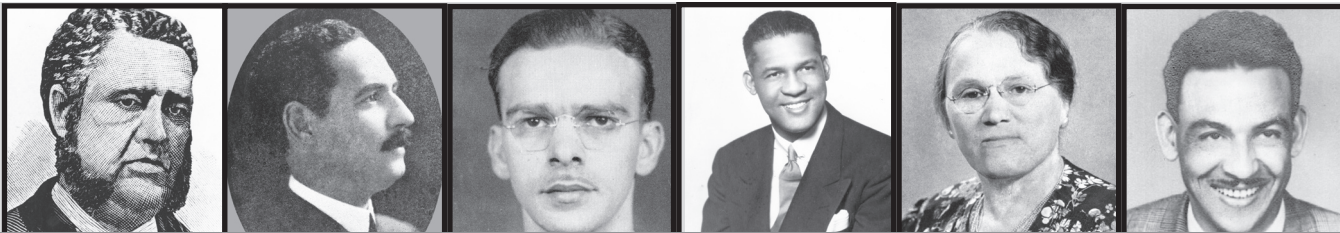
Last Fall, the College of Charleston welcomed Dr. Antonio Tillis as the new Dean of the School of Languages, Cultures, and World Affairs. A noted scholar and native of Memphis, Tennessee, Tillis is a mixture of Southern charm and cosmopolitan sensibilities that is underscored by a global approach to scholarship and the intersecting epistemologies of African-American Studies.

In just a short time, he has distinguished himself as a global thinker and campus maverick, having secured the College of Charleston as the host for the 2015 Association for the Worldwide African Diaspora Conference (ASWAD). As a result of his tenacity and international reputation as a scholar and administrator, the North Campus and the City of North Charleston will host upwards of five hundred national and international scholars this November.

The Avery Research Center has taken the lead on the planning and logistics of local events and venues associated with the conference. We are honored to work with Dean Tillis and the Executive Board of ASWAD!

Dean Tillis is a Latin Americanist and holds a B.S. in Spanish from Vanderbilt University, a M.A. in Spanish Literature from Howard University, and a PhD. in Latin American Literature with an Afro-Hispanic emphasis from University of Missouri at Columbia. We are delighted that he is a friend and supporter of the Avery Research Center and a leader on the College of Charleston campus.





## AVERY'S 19th-and-20th CENTURY LEADERS IN EDUCATION

by Jack McCray

**T**he impact of the Avery Institute was greatly influenced by its principals and faculty. The Institute served Low Country Blacks for 89 years with the five Black principals dominating the school's history. Graduates have indelible memories of leaders and teachers who formed their views of life as well as preparing them for the pursuit of a livelihood and positive participation in society.

Francis Cardozo, educated in Europe, succeeded his brother Thomas as principal in August of 1865 of a school for Blacks named after abolitionist Lewis Tappan, an original member of the American Missionary Association (AMA) in New York. Francis Cardozo got the ball rolling, finding a permanent home for 1,000 students and 20 faculty members on St. Philip Street. It was on Cardozo's watch that the school ended up on Bull Street and was named after the Reverend Charles Avery of Pittsburgh. It was dedicated May 7, 1868.

It was Cardozo who decided Avery should be a normal school offering classical education and college preparatory education, thus challenging immediately the belief of white supremacy. Later in 1868, Cardozo resigned to take office as Secretary of State for South Carolina, starting a succession of white principals through 1913. Under one of these principals, Morrison Holmes, Avery gained its reputation as a school with very high standards and as the best school in the AMA system.

The big watershed in the school's history came with the appointment of Benjamin F. Cox as principal in 1915. It was early in his administration, which lasted until 1936, that Avery converted to an all Black faculty and provided many of the Black teachers soon to take over classrooms in Charleston's Black public schools. Ten years into Cox's administration, Avery was incorporated so that it could be upgraded to the college level. Along the way, he also upgraded the physical plant and introduced new courses

into the curriculum. Most importantly, it was during Cox's tenure that Avery firmly established its Black identity. The Charleston chapter of the NAACP was started at Avery in 1917. High profile national figures, such as Marian Anderson, Langston Hughes, and W.E.B. DuBois visited and spoke. Cox instituted weekly chapel sessions designed to reinforce the notion of community service.

Following Cox were Frank DeCosta (1936–1941), L. Howard Bennett (1941–1943), [and Samuel Washington (1944–1945)]. In 1945, the same year a fire burned the Avery building[,], John F. Potts took over as principal, implementing programs such as the People's Institute, an adult education program. Potts [also] prepared the way for the school's transition into a public school.

Over the entire history of Avery, many teachers came to be loved and admired by students. There were too many to list in total, but several are well-remembered. One of them was Florence Alberta ("Bertie") Clyde. She turned out a long line of teachers from Avery and was appointed acting principal in 1943. She was an 1891 graduate.

The educational, cultural, religious, and economic footprints of these teachers and principals can still be seen today.

~~~~~

*Images above: (l-r) Principals: Francis Cardozo, Benjamin F. Cox, Frank A. DeCosta, L. Howard Bennett, Florence A. Clyde, John F. Potts.*

*Native Charlestonian Jack McCray (d. 2011) was a journalist and jazz historian. He served on the publication committee for The Bulletin, a publication of The Avery Institute of Afro-American History and Culture. The entire original article was published in The Bulletin (Winter 2000: Volume 20).*

## 30th Anniversary of the Avery Research Center for African American History and Culture

by W. Marvin Dulaney PhD



**S**ince my tenure as Executive Director of the Avery Research Center ended seven years ago, I have often reflected on the meaning of my experience there as well as the impact that the Avery Research Center has had on the Charleston community. Since I teach a graduate course on "public history", I often use examples from my experiences at Avery Research Center to show students how a public history institution can make a difference by being serious about its mission to collect, preserve, and document the history of African Americans in the community. In addition, the Avery Research Center has continued to serve as my "Exhibit A" for all of the things that a public history institution has to do to educate its constituents: collect archives, raise

money, develop community outreach and educational programs, sponsor exhibitions and public programs, and serve as an advocate for the preservation of history and culture in the community. During its thirty-year history, as well as when it was a school for African-American children, Avery Research Center has been one of the most important institutions in the community, documenting African-American experiences and providing education about those experiences to its many publics. I am very glad and I feel a sense of fulfillment that I was able to play a small part in developing the Avery Research Center into the institution that it is today.

*Dr. W. Marvin Dulaney was Executive Director of the Avery Research Center from 1994–2008. He is currently Chair and Associate Professor, Department of History at the University of Texas at Arlington.*

## AVERY INSTITUTE MEMBERSHIP NEWS



**Tony Bell,  
Membership  
Chairman**

Greetings,

This is a landmark year!

Join the Avery Institute of Afro-American History and Culture (AIAAHC) in celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Avery Institute and the 30th anniversary of the Avery Research Center.

Both the Avery Institute and the Avery Research Center have exciting events planned to highlight the living legacy of the Avery Institute and the ongoing work of the Avery Research Center. Visit both websites for event updates. We have also embarked on a membership drive this year, as it is your collective memberships that ensure our continued support of Avery Research Center programs and projects, such as this very publication.

If you have not already, use the enclosed envelope to become an AIAAHC member today—and remember, it is tax deductible!

**Avery Institute:**  
<http://www.averyinstitute.us>

**Avery Research Center:**  
<http://avery.cofc.edu>

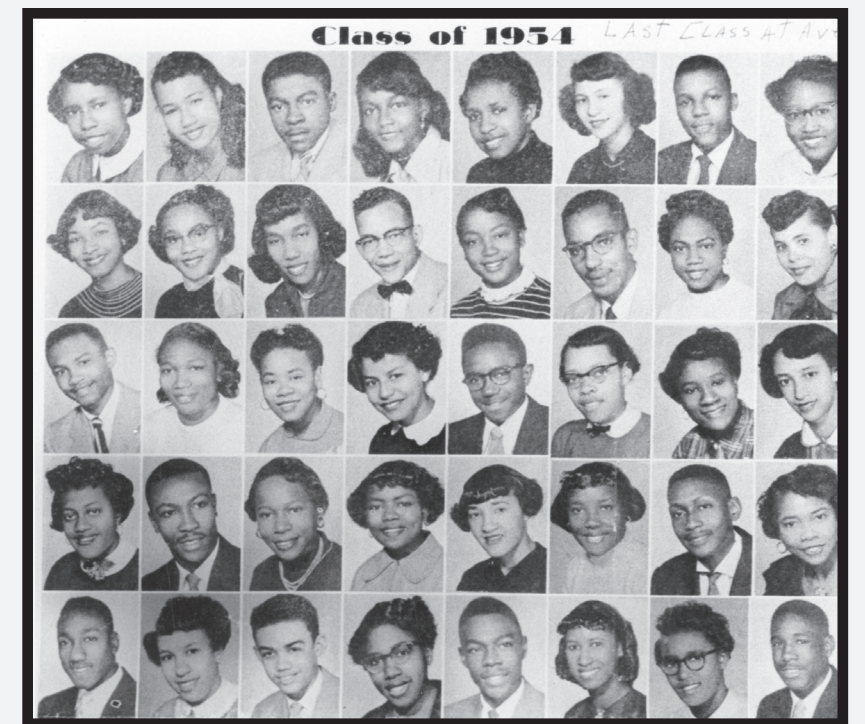
## Dedication



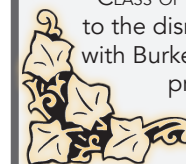
TO ALL OF THE AVERY INSTITUTE'S GRADUATING CLASSES  
FROM 1872–1954



AVERY CLASS OF 1888. Principal Morrison A. Holmes is standing in the back row (far right). David R. Hill (next to Holmes) was the first Black principal of the Charleston Colored Industrial School, later called Burke Industrial School.



CLASS OF 1954—Avery Institute's last graduating class. After 89 years, and to the dismay of many, the Avery Institute closed its doors and was merged with Burke School. Avery Institute principal at the time, John Potts, became president of Voorhees College in Denmark, South Carolina.





## AVERY INSTITUTE MEMBERSHIP

2015

### HONORARY LIFE

Vivienne E. Anderson  
Elmore Brown  
Wendell F. Cox, Jr.  
Herbert and Emily DeCosta  
Judge Richard E. Fields  
Philip Simmons  
Lois Simms  
Honorable Lucille Whipper

### LIFE (\$5,000+)

LaBrenda Garrett-Nelson  
Harriet P. Williams

### BENEFACTOR (\$2,500-\$4,000)

Robert L. Simmons

### CONTRIBUTOR (\$500-\$2,499)

Wendell F. Cox, Jr.  
Judge Richard E. Fields  
Irmatrude Grant  
Cheryl H. Love  
Charles Marshall  
Charles E. McKenzie  
Monica & Ken Seeger  
Geneva S. Wilkins

### SUSTAINER (\$100-\$499)

Claire B. Allen  
Annette Anderson  
Benjamin Anderson  
Elizabeth M. Bear  
Tony Bell  
Catherine Boags  
James D. Breeden  
Millicent E. Brown  
Walter G. Brown, Jr.  
John Buncum  
John Dash

Roger E. Dash  
Julia-Ellen Davis  
Armand Derfner  
Pearl N. Gibbs  
Ralph & Gwendolyn T. Grant  
Beverly A. Gray  
Rick Gutowski  
Roslyn J. Harper  
William C. Hine  
Stephen G. Hoffius  
Loretta Hughes  
Murray S. Jaffe  
Mary Joesph  
Delores C. Kemp  
Ms. Minerva King  
Cynthia McCottry-Smith  
John & Joanne Milkereit  
Thomas & Doris Miree  
Barbara V. Nelson  
Gregory D. Padgett  
Daniel Ravenel  
Vanessa M. Richardson  
Priscilla M. Robinson & Family  
Luther W. Seabrook  
Nelson Simpson  
Kathy E. Smalls  
Arthur J. Thomas  
Pamela M. Zaresk  
Charleston Chapter Continental  
Societies, Inc.  
New Hope Missionary Baptist  
Church

### INDIVIDUAL (\$35)

Col. Andrew R. Bland, Jr. (Ret.)  
Barbara Braithwaite  
Catherine Braxton  
John Martin Bryan  
Pauline E. Caffey  
Mildred E. Carr  
Richard Chisolm, Sr.  
Karen E. Fields

Katchia Gethers  
Harlan Greene  
Christine W. Hampton  
Joseph F. Hanley, Jr.  
Marsha Lynn Hassell  
Fannie Hicklin  
William H. Hopkins  
Johnnie J. Kidd  
Amanda Garrison Lee  
Rosetta P. Martin  
Althea Holmes Masterson  
Amy T. McCandless  
Robert J. Miller  
Angel Payton-Harmon  
Helen Phillips  
Bernard Powers  
Betty J. Profit  
John & Sandra Purvis  
Jean Dorsett Robinson  
Everard O. Rutledge  
Winifred Sanders  
Waymond Saylor  
Lillie M. Sheffield  
Gwendolyn A. Simmons  
Daniel M. Smith  
Anna Mae Smith Smalls  
George W. Smyth, Jr.  
Thomas Stoney, Sr.  
John Tecklenburg  
Betty R. Vann  
Barbara Ward  
Osie Winds  
Linda Mayo-Perez Williams  
Robert & Kathleen Xidis

### BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION (\$300-\$2,499)

Charleston Chapter of the  
LINKS, Inc.  
Morris Street Baptist Church  
Phillis Wheatley Literary and  
Social Club

## MEMORIALS

**Mrs. Mildred Carr**

In MEMORY of ... JOHN W. CARR, SR.

**Fantah Hooker**

In MEMORY of ... DR. GLENN HOOKER

**Loretta Hughes**

In MEMORY of ... JERRY LEON HUGHES

**Rosmond Whipper-Black**

In MEMORY of ... OGRETTA HOURAY

**Dana Berlin-Starge**

In MEMORY of ... JESTINE MATTHEWS

**Mr. & Mrs. Nelson Simpson**

In MEMORY of ... MARIE & HAROLD C. HOUSTON

## MESSAGE FROM AVERY RESEARCH CENTER'S FIRST DIRECTOR:

CONGRATULATIONS on the sesquicentennial anniversary of the Avery Normal Institute and the thirtieth anniversary of the Avery Research Center! Over the years, the Avery school, with its normal teacher training program and college preparatory courses, allowed Black youth to prepare for careers in teaching and other professions such as medicine, dentistry, and law. By the time the school was closed in the 1950s, Avery graduates were prepared to continue its legacy of educational excellence and accomplishment as teachers in Charleston public schools. As the Avery Research Center, with its archives and small museum as an outgrowth of the interest and creativity of the Avery school's alumni, the legacy of educational excellence and accomplishment continues throughout the years.

**Dr. Myrtle Glascoe**  
Executive Director, Avery Research Center (1985-1993)



**2015 AVERY INSTITUTE OF AFRO-AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE (AIAAHC) BOARD MEMBERS**  
Top Row (l-r): Tony Bell, Minerva King, Vanessa Richardson, Walter G. Brown, Jr., John Buncum (Treasurer), Rick Gutowski  
Bottom Row, l-r: Pearl Gibbs (Vice-President), Priscilla McLeod Robinson, Roslyn Harper, Julia-Ellen Craft Davis, Kathy Smalls (Secretary), Catherine Boags (President)  
(Not shown: Barbara V. Nelson and Charles McKenzie)

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CHARLESTON, SC  
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**Tours of the museum galleries** are conducted five times a day, Monday through Friday (10:30am, 11:30am, 1:30pm, 2:30pm, and 3:30pm) except on College of Charleston holidays and winter break. Group tours of 5 or more and Saturday tours are by appointment only. For more information call 843.953.7609. Admission by donation.

**The Phillis Wheatley Literary and Social Club Reading Room** is open to the public year-round, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 10:00am-12:30pm and 1:30pm-5:00pm except on College of Charleston holidays and winter break. To contact the Reading Room call 843.953.7608.

**Visit our website** for more information:  
<http://avery.cofc.edu>

## A HISTORICAL CONTEXT...

Established in a turbulent, frightening, and unparalleled era, the Avery Institute became one of South Carolina's premier educational institutions. Its unprecedented opportunity for instruction seemed magical to a people burdened by the weight of educational proscriptions. Avery's success was never foreordained; it succeeded despite daunting obstacles, reflecting the deep commitment parents and children had to personal, community, and racial progress. The Avery Alumni Association's motto, *Vestigia Nulla Retrorsum* or "no stepping back again", combines the knowledge of obstacles overcome with a clear vision for the future. Among other things, an Avery education instilled civic pride. So whether the need was for teachers, physicians, entrepreneurs, or civil rights activists, Averyites were ready and we remain in their debt.

### Bernard E. Powers PhD

*Dr. Bernard E. Powers, Professor of History at the College of Charleston is the author of Black Charlestonians: A Social History, 1822-1885.*



Photo of students in the Avery Institute library, located on the third floor. Photo from the 1939 Avery Institute yearbook, *The Averyite*.